

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
Hearing on “The FTC at 100: Where Do We Go From Here?”
December 3, 2013**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we will examine the important role of the Federal Trade Commission, its impact on jobs and the economy, and what to look forward to in the agency’s next century.

The FTC’s grasp reaches far and wide, and it is the only federal agency with both consumer protection and competition jurisdiction.

From the smallest, independent corner store to the largest industry, from online data collection to multi-million dollar merger reviews, the FTC is charged with ensuring industry players play fair, competition thrives, and that consumers enjoy the fruits of that competition as well as protection from fraudsters. Of course, with such great power comes equal concern about the appropriate use of that power and potential consequences for job creation and economic growth.

Through a broader lens, this committee is taking an agency-by-agency approach to reviewing the state of government. How do we now operate? How can we function better, more efficiently, and more effectively? Chairman Terry puts it best when he calls it “clearing the underbrush” – clearing the bog that slows us down and makes us less efficient.

Our duties are twofold – pursue policies that protect the public while also working to ensure job creation, innovation, and economic growth are allowed to flourish. The FTC can play an important role as we seek to recover fully from the Great Recession.

I thank each of the commissioners for being here today and I look forward to our discussion. I know a number of my colleagues have comments they would like to share so I yield the balance of my time.

###